

INCOMING TELEGRAM**Department of State**

38 M

Action

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Classification

Control: 13465

Rec'd: 11 February 22, 1961.

3:36 a.m.

NEA

Info

FROM: Khorramshahr

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 33, February 21, 4 p.m.

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PRIORITY

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SCS

SENT DEPARTMENT 33, REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY TEHRAN 128,
BAGHDAD 20, LONDON 19, BASRA 20.

INR

CIA

NSA

OSD

NAVY

COM

CONTEL 31 to Department.

RMR

1. Iranian ports DIRGEN Moghaddam called meeting all shipping agents to inform them that vessels presently docked Abadan would be unberthed by Iranian Harbor Masters starting morning February 22. He asked cooperation with Iranian authorities and asserted Iran Government was only assuming rights granted 1937 Boundary and Navigation Treaty. Vessels would be turned over to Iraqi river pilots if provided. Otherwise ships would be anchored Bawardareach as long as space available after which they would be guided down Shatt by Iranian pilots. Ships refusing accept Iranian Harbor Masters would be moved from section by tugs. Moghaddam reminded agents they were operating in Iran and threatened severe consequences if they did not cooperate. He announced first ships affected would be CASSIA, ITALIAN FREIGHTER, STANVAC CANBERRA, PANAMIAN TANKER, and BRITISH DEFENDER, BRITISH BP TANKER. (These ships of small enough draft when loaded to anchor Bawardareach but other tankers in Abadan too large).

American Eastern manager noted responsibility this case rests with master not agent and asked permission masters use ship

wireless

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-2- 33, February 21, 4 p.m., from Khorramshahr

wireless to contact owners for instructions. Moghaddam denied request but promised secure priority for such cables.

2. Consortium which has cooperated with Iran Government this affair presently puzzling over potential dilemma whether provide tugs necessary carryout Moghaddam's threat move reluctant ships. Tugs used by refinery contracted from British petroleum and owners may be unwilling have them used for such purposes.

3. Consortium visit Basra February 21 cancelled because refusal BPA receive representatives and accept letter. Refinery now cut back to 60 percent capacity.

MAESTRONE

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Note: Read by Mr. Eilts (NEA); Mr. Beckner (E) notified.
10 a.m. 2/22/61, CWO-M

FEB 24 9 28 AM '61

ST/CS/RR

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